advantages over other global competitors like USA, Brazil and Argentina for exports to South East Asian countries *viz.* lower transaction cost due to proximity to these countries, protein richer and cheaper Indian soyabean which could be dispatched in small quantities leading to less cost in storage and locking up of less funds.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance agri-exports, including soyameal include sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and conducting market surveys. Recently, the excise duty on Food Grade Hexane, which is a solvent used for extraction of oil, has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

Effect of WTO on small and big industries

†2962. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all small and big industries of the country will be economically affected with the inclusion of India in World Trade Organisation (WTO); and

(b) if so, the details of measures Government are taking to make indigenous industries competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The World Trade Organisation has established a global rule-based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system. India's membership of World Trade Organisation, since 1995, has provided an opportunity to multilaterally negotiate trade issues and to put in place permissible measures such as import licensing and trade defence mechanisms like safeguard action and anti-dumping which are aimed at ensuring a fair and transparent trading regime.

(b) Measures taken by Government to make indigenous industry competitive *inter alia* include cluster development, availability of institutional credit, assistance for adoption of modern management practices, use of Information Technology and a new scheme known as the "Manufacturing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Competitiveness Programme" that has been formulated in the Union Budget of 2005-06.

Export of flowers

†2963. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of flowers exported during the last two years alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the countries to whom flowers were exported; and

(c) the further efforts being made by Government to promote such exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The quantum and value of flowers exported during the last two years is as under:

(quantity in metric tonnes; value in rupees in lakhs)

2002-03		2003-04	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
12298.38	10138.26	12938.41	11414.35

(Source: 0 G C I & S)

(b) Major destinations for export of Indian floriculture products are USA, UK, Netherlands, Japan, Germany and Italy.

(c) The initiatives taken by APEDA to boost export of floriculture products include setting up of Agri Export Zones, cargo handling and cold storage facilities at six international airports and participation in important trade fairs. It is also extending financial incentives to exporters through its schemes for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport Assistance. Wholesaie-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.